



HOUSE BILL 301: Safe and Responsible AI in Schools Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 29, 2026
Introduced by:	Reps. Zenger, N. Jackson, Almond, Willis	Prepared by:	Samantha Yarborough and Bryson Penley
Analysis of:	Amendment to Third Edition H301-ABN-28		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: Amendment ABN-28 to House Bill 301 would make the following changes to the 3rd Edition:

- Adjust the effective date of the Social Media Protections for Minors Act from October 1, 2025, to October 1, 2026.
- Require the State Board of Education to update the standard course of study for computer science by adopting content standards for instruction on artificial intelligence (AI) and make other conforming changes to computer science instruction requirements.
- Require the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop a model AI policy for public school units and require public school units to adopt AI policies.
- Require DPI to develop a framework for evaluating generative AI tools for use in schools and to incentivize schools to use tools evaluated in accordance with the framework.
- Require DPI to partner with the Friday Institute at NC State to produce professional development modules on AI and require certain teachers to complete the modules.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-5(7a) defines the term "public school unit" (PSU) to include local school administrative units, charter schools, regional schools, laboratory schools, and the schools for the deaf and blind.

G.S. 115C-12(9c) requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to regularly revise the standard course of study, content standards, and support materials in core academic subjects.

G.S. 115C-81.90 requires the SBE to include computer science instruction in the standard course of study. Each PSU is required to offer (i) an elective introductory computer science course to middle school students and (ii) a computer science course that fulfills the computer science high school graduation requirement. G.S. 115C-81.90(b) requires the SBE to develop a list of approved introductory courses to be offered to middle school students. G.S. 115C-81.90(c) requires the SBE to adopt a list of courses that fulfill the computer science graduation requirement.

Part 3A of Article 8 of Chapter 115C contains requirements related to school technology, including the requirement that local boards of education adopt internet safety policies.

G.S. 115C-270.30(b)(2a) allows mandatory training programs to contribute toward a teacher's continuing education credit requirements if the program is required by law or as a condition of employment and the teacher has met other content-specific requirements.

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BILL ANALYSIS: The amendment would make the Social Media Protection for Minors Act effective October 1, 2026. Additionally, it would add the following new material to the bill:

Part II would require the SBE to update the standard course of study for computer science by adopting content standards for instruction on artificial intelligence (AI) that address AI literacy, including best practices for using AI tools responsibly. The SBE would be required to implement the revised computer science standards by the 2028-2029 school year.

The SBE would be required to update the AI standards every two years to keep up with advancements in AI. Additionally, the SBE would have to update the list of approved introductory computer science courses for middle school students and the list of approved courses that fulfil the computer science graduation requirement to reflect course alignment with the revised standards for use during the 2028-2029 school year.

By December 15, 2028, DPI would be required to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) on the adoption of the revised standards by the SBE and on the implementation of those standards in schools.

Part III would require DPI to develop a model policy on AI to serve as guidance for PSUs by December 31, 2026. The model policy would have to include definitions of AI, generative AI, and AI tools, and provide guidance on developing student and staff AI literacy, including best practices for using AI tools safely, ethically, and responsibly. The Superintendent of Public Instruction would be required to ensure that PSUs have access to the model policy by January 15, 2027.

After reviewing the model policy developed by DPI, all PSUs would be required to adopt a policy on the use of AI by students and staff for educational purposes by June 30, 2027.

Part IV would require DPI to establish an evaluation framework for assessing the suitability of generative AI-powered educational tools for use in schools that addresses the following: (i) student data privacy, security and transparency, (ii) alignment with the standard course of study, and (iii) accessibility. DPI would be required to update the framework at least every two years to reflect changes in technology, evidence, and education practice.

DPI would have to maintain a publicly available list of AI tools that have been reviewed with the evaluation framework, and develop procurement guidance, qualified vendor lists, and other mechanisms to encourage the adoption of generative AI-powered education tools that have been reviewed with DPI's AI evaluation framework.

DPI would also be required to maintain a publicly available list of all generative AI-powered education tools that are being used in PSUs.

Part V would require DPI to partner with the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at North Carolina State University to produce online professional development resources that train teachers on the use of AI by June 30, 2027. The Friday Institute would be required to provide 10 hours of self-paced modules that address the use of AI for educational purposes safely, ethically, and responsibly.

All teachers employed by local school administrative units, charter schools, and laboratory schools would be required to complete the professional development by June 30, 2028.

By December 15, 2028, DPI would be required to submit a report to JLEOC on the delivery of the professional development to teachers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Unless otherwise provided, the bill would be effective when it becomes law.